

HUNS FALLING BACK BEFORE AMERICANS

RAILWAY TRIANGLE IN FLANDERS TAKEN BY HAIG

Strongly Fortified Position Southwest La Bassee Stormed and Captured—British Driving Toward Cambrai, Cross Canal Du Nord, Northwest Havrincourt.

London, Sept. 12.—(12:40 p.m.)—Continuing their drive eastward in an encircling movement about the German stronghold of St. Quentin, British troops have taken Vermand, Vendelles and Attilly (five miles to the west of St. Quentin) and have made progress into Holnon wood (four and a half miles to the west of St. Quentin), the war office announced today.

During the night British troops also stormed and captured the strongly-fortified position known as the "railway triangle," southwest of Labassee, in Flanders. A number of prisoners and machine guns fell into the hands of the British at this point.

Driving toward Cambrai, the British troops crossed the Canal Du Nord, northwest of Havrincourt, and established themselves in strong positions on the western bank of the canal north and east of Moeuvres. This is the region in which the Germans have recently been launching their strongest counter attacks.

New Drive South Scarpe.

London, Sept. 12.—(3:35 p.m.)—A new British drive was opened south of the Scarpe river today, according to information reaching here from the battle front this afternoon.

(The Scarpe river lies east of Arras, where the Flanders and Picardy battle fronts join up.)

No definite details had been received up to 8 o'clock this afternoon. For the past month British artillery has been extremely active. At least 10,000,000 rounds of ammunition were fired in counter battery work. In this big gun dueling the allied batteries destroyed ten times as many German guns as the allies lost themselves.

The immediate results of the German retreat since mid-July has been to shorten the line over seventy miles. This enables the allies to economize from thirty to forty divisions.

Berlin Claims Victory.

Berlin, via London, Sept. 12.—"British attacks in the sectors of Bixshoote, Armentieres and LaBassee canal (Flanders front) were repulsed," the German war office announced today.

"Other British attacks on the Havrincourt-Marquion front, and French attacks in the Fismes sector (Aisne river front), failed."

Crossed Canal Du Nord.

London, Sept. 12.—British forces have effected a crossing of the Canal Du Nord to the northwest of the town of Havrincourt, Field Marshal Haig announced in his official report today. The canal line here forms the main defense of Cambrai on the southwest.

Only Raids on French Line.

Paris, Sept. 12.—Only raiding operations and artillery activity along the French front are reported in today's war office statement. North of the Ailette a raid by French troops resulted in the taking of prisoners. There was artillery activity in the Rheims and Fismes regions. Two enemy raids in the Champagne and in the Vosges were repulsed.

Supreme Line Defense.

Paris, Sept. 12.—The supreme line of defense, to be called the Parsifal line, is being constructed by the Germans from Antwerp to Metz, says Marcel Fatin in the Echo de Paris. The article also says that the Germans are putting the Antwerp forts in a defensive condition.

RESUMES DEBATE ON WAR REVENUE BILL

Chairman Kitchen Does Not Anticipate Any Changes in Original Draft of Bill.

Washington, Sept. 12.—Draft registration day and the house in session, that action on the \$8,000,000,000 revenue bill might not be delayed. General debate on the measure is scheduled to end today.

Continuation of it has been suspended long enough tomorrow, house leaders state, to permit the measure to exempt liberty bonds, not more than \$30,000 worth of which are held by any one person or firm, from income and excess war profits taxes, to be speedily passed, as Secretary McAdoo has urged because of the nearness of the fourth liberty loan drive.

The measure also allows \$1,000 worth of a single series of war savings stamps to be held at one time, instead of \$1,000 worth of all series. It also adds to the president's and Secretary McAdoo's financial powers.

Chairman Kitchen, of the ways and means committee, does not anticipate, he says, any changes in the revenue bill because of the proposed execution of liberty bonds from the taxes involved in the McAdoo plan.

He estimates that \$50,000,000 will be lost under the plan, but points out that the estimates under the revenue bill amount to an excess of more than \$100,000,000 beyond the original \$8,000,000,000 to be raised by taxation.

There is, of course, the loss of revenue from the cessation of beer brewing on Dec. 1 and of honey-ale prohibition on July 1 next, to also be met, he explains, but the house is entertained by house leaders that the imposition of consumption taxes or of import duties may not prove necessary.

The house proposes they add to the bill in much its present form before the end of next week despite the announced intention of certain senators to "tear it to pieces" when it reaches the senate.

ANTI-BOLSHEVIK FORCES CAPTURE PETROGRAD—REPORT

(By I. N. S.)
London, Sept. 12.—Russian counter revolutionaries have captured Petrograd from the bolsheviks, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen this afternoon, quoting advices received there from Helsingfors. There is no confirmation of the capture of Petrograd from any other source.

The seat of the bolshevik government is now at Moscow.

BLOW STRUCK AT EMPIRE'S HEART

Yankee Bayonets Flash Across Battle Line of Valley of Moselle.

STRIKE AT AUTOCRACY

Americans Making Drive for Germany's Great Fortress at Metz.

(By Fred J. Wilson.)
New York, Sept. 12.—(I. N. S.)—America's big blow has begun. Yankee bayonets, pointing straight at the heart of German autocracy, have flashed across the battle line of the valley of the Moselle and her fighters are surging forward on long prepared lines to strike straight at the heart of Germany's greatest fortress, Metz. It is likely to be the first real stop on the road to Berlin.

German Autocracy

Today's blow is no hasty or ill-considered stroke. Since early in the spring, plans have been in existence to deliver this particular blow. Preparations were begun for the advance toward Metz from the west, behind Toul, Nancy and Lunéville, and only the northern offensive by the Germans and that later by the allies delayed the American blow. I had the opportunity in May to witness the preparations being made for the drive towards Metz. At that time a great many emplacements for big guns were already completed throughout the section of the American front which extended from Baccarat to the angle of the St. Mihiel salient above Commercy. Miles upon miles of barbed wire entanglements, brand new, covered the whole country, and through the gaps in these it was evident to even a non-military eye that troops were being moved forward to the attack. Over the whole face of the country, battery positions had been established.

Camouflaged With Wires

Every one of them was most carefully camouflaged with wires, netting covered with small limbs of trees, already in position to hide them from the eye of any German gotha. In each of the hillsides all along the American lines above Toul and Nancy were covered with the mouths of the famous French 75's looked out toward the north and Germany. There was comparatively little fighting going on at that time, but behind the lines of the Americans and French buses and trucks were being moved forward to the front. It was perfectly plain that an assault in force was contemplated for the near future.

Not Only Was There Evidence

of an intention to attack from the placing of the buses and trucks, but the war office in London, which is the source of all our news, has announced that the Germans have been hastily constructing by the Americans, the French and the British, from an enormous force of bombing planes, which are being used to strike over their lines into Germany. Along every road in the whole region lorries marked with the British broad arrow, were drawn up in line and ready to start at a moment's notice. It is not possible to reveal even today, very great collections of hangars were already in place with aviators of America, England and France, busily training for the expected onslaught.

Personalities

Personalities named at that time that the attack would come within thirty days. It probably would have come within thirty days had it not been necessary to push the Germans back from the Moselle. They overran their March offensive. The whole region along the German lines was then alive with long lines of French tanks and their crews were being rushed into that territory in preparation for an assault, but developments now show that instead of going in to the attack, the Germans have been moving from positions which had been secretly taken up in anticipation of the big attack.

Much Impatience Was in Evidence

among the American forces on the sector in May, because the push they all saw coming did not seem likely to be an American push.

If They Would Only Bunch us Together

and let us go in, shoulder to shoulder, we'd try to show them that the Yankees can do the job." It was the general impression. "Today it seems probable that the bulk of the force which apparently are to strike up the valley of the Moselle are Yankees. They have their chance at last and it is not too much to prophesy that they will do the job."

For weeks past nothing was contemplated.

I have watched with the greatest interest reports of the bombing by Americans of Thionville. All these attacks upon the communications of the Germans were evidently preparatory to the move I have been expecting since March. French and British will be stiff fighting, but there is a good passage toward Metz up the valley from Pont-a-Mousson.

From the American lines

about thirty miles to Metz. There are good roads, but the country adjoining is rolling, well wooded and comparatively easy of defense. The American smash will not prove easy. It means a very undeviating fight hard. It means that no serious attempt will be made to drive through to Metz at this time, but if early reports of an attack prove that a stroke has been made both from the Toul-Nancy sector simultaneously with the blow from Verdun, it is almost a certainty that the famous St. Mihiel salient will be pinched out at the very least. No one knows exactly how the number of Americans and French which have been massed to make this blow. However, there is no doubt that the first great smash to be made by his troops and it is safe to say that he and Marshal Foch have made their plans so well that success will surely come.

BASEBALL ON DECK

AS USUAL NEXT SPRING
Chicago, Sept. 12.—(I. N. S.)—Thomas W. Hickey, president of the disbanded American association, in an interview today declared that baseball will be on deck as usual next spring. He based this assertion partly on another—that the red, white and blue will be over in ample time for soldiers, not baseball players, to exchange the gun for the bat.

HAD WITHDRAWN GERMANS FROM QUIET SECTORS

With the American troops in France, Wednesday Night, Sept. 11.—In their frantic efforts to stem the tide of the entente allied advance, the German high command has been taking divisions out of quiet sectors around Verdun and in the Woerwe and Lorraine, where they had been placed to maintain a very half rest, even though they need recuperation.

NEW FRANCO-AMERICAN OFFENSIVE



13,000,000 MEN HEAR CLEAR CALL

Registration Day Most Inspiring Demonstration of Patriotism in U. S. History.

FLAGS FLY; BANDS PLAY

Citizens Near Top Age Limit and Boys Still in Teen Sign Their Names.

Washington, Sept. 12.—While American soldiers at the front in France stood ready with French and British forces for what may prove the greatest battle of the war, 13,000,000 Americans registered today for military duty and gave the most inspiring demonstration of patriotism in the nation's history.

HUNS ABANDON HEAPS OF SPOIL

Checking Up Material Taken During Drive on Montdidier-Aisne Front.

GERMANS PAY HEAVY TOLL

In Supplies Left Behind in Their Flight Before Oncoming Allied Armies.

(By Fred J. Hollmeyer.)
Paris, Sept. 12.—(I. N. S.)—It will be weeks before a complete inventory of guns, rifles, ammunition and stores, captured by the allies in their victorious drive on the Montdidier-Aisne front, can be made.

Each day squads of soldiers, detailed to gather up the so-called "spoils" of the gigantic collection.

The mass of the abandoned material is the best proof of the rapidity with which the enemy bolted before the allied advance.

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GERMANS AT ST. MIHIEL UNDER TERRIFIC FIRE

French and American Forces on Lorraine Front Launch Offensive Against Huns On Both Sides of Salient—Reply of Teutonic Artillery is Very Weak.

With the American Forces on the Lorraine Front, Sept. 12.—(Reuters.)—French and American forces this morning launched an attack against the German positions on both sides of the St. Mihiel salient. The reply to the terrific barrage fire by the German big guns was vigorous at some places, although as a whole it was weak. There are some indications that the Germans are withdrawing their artillery, although it is more probable that they are going to fight hard before being driven out, after enduring a stifling barrage of more than eight hours.

The Germans at some points are increasing the volume of their big gun fire, but ineffectually.

Attack a Daring One.

The weather is fine. The attack made by the French and the Americans was a most daring one, and so far has been successful. The attack was preceded by a barrage lasting four hours. The attack on the southern side of the St. Mihiel salient was made along a distance of twelve miles. The attack on the western side was on a front of eight miles. There has been a great concentration of Franco-American artillery and entente airplanes operating in large numbers.

Take Part Hun First Line.

With the American Forces on the Lorraine Front, Sept. 12.—(9 a.m.)—American forces this morning launched an attack on the German positions. At 9 o'clock they had progressed generally along the line. Some prisoners were taken at different parts of the sector. The first wave of American troops met with little resistance, and at 8 o'clock the second American wave was in possession of several points of the German first line.

The Germans are now falling back on the fronts on each side of the St. Mihiel salient.

Germans Were Suspicious.

Though undoubtedly suspicious of the intentions of the Americans in this region, the Germans were unaware at the time of the direction of the attack. The American troops are all intensely eager and are fighting magnificently.

Protected By Hills.

(St. Mihiel is on the Meuse river, south of Verdun.) On the St. Mihiel salient the Germans were protected by hills and were able in the past to bring up munitions and supplies in safety. This sector has been held by second-rate German troops and a few reserves. It is at least a four days' task to bring up reserves to this zone from the active parts of the western battle front. Communication lines are difficult to maintain there. Considering all this, a really successful drive in that district would enable the allies to outflank the entire western front.

While no word to that effect has been received,

officials were practically certain that Secretary of War Baker was not far from the point where the Americans went in when the offensive started this morning. It is known that the secretary has been very anxious to be on the ground where he could see the American forces in action and it is therefore assumed that he would take advantage of today's operations.

On Woerwe Plains.

The first great "all American" offensive centered on the Woerwe plain, the stretch of ground lying between the Meuse and Moselle rivers south of Verdun. Apparently the American attacks centered in the sector of St. Mihiel, on the Meuse river, where the Germans encountered their greatest obstacles in their drive into France in 1914.

The Germans got to the western side of the Meuse at St. Mihiel and established a bridgehead there but were unable to advance any farther. This district lies on the German frontier, not far from the great fortresses of Metz.

The Germans have established a strong chain of fortifications along their lines in this zone and have the advantage of territory.

FUNCTION OF REVIEWING RATES NOT TO BE RESTORED

Washington, Sept. 12.—Rate-reviewing functions of state railroad and utility commissions probably will not be restored to them by the railroad administration, it was stated today, although the co-operation of the state bodies in enforcing safety and other public regulations will be welcomed.

In some states, also, commissions have gone ahead with investigations of local rate inequities, and have reported recommendations to the federal administration. In most cases these recommendations have been adopted.

The principal agencies for consideration of rate revisions, however, will continue to be the regional, district and local traffic committees.

AUTHORITY ON HIGH EXPLOSIVES RESIGNS

Dr. Edward Charles Munroe Gives up Chair of Chemistry at George Washington University
Washington, Sept. 12.—Dr. Edward Charles Munroe, international authority on high explosives and one of the inventors of smokeless powder, today resigned as head of the chemistry department at George Washington University, to accept the chairmanship of the committee on explosives of the war research council. Dr. E. C. McNell, of the bureau of standards, becomes head of the chemistry department and Prof. George N. Henning, dean of the graduate school.

HUNS PLAN TO INUNDATE AREA NORTH OF RHEIMS

London, Sept. 12.—According to Dutch frontier messages, the Germans are preparing to inundate the regions of the river Aisne northeast of Rheims, says a dispatch from Amsterdam to the Central News Agency. At some places dams have been constructed in the river which can be closed on short notice and special bridges have been built.

ARMY OFFICERS WARNED AGAINST EXPECTING ANY VERY GREAT SPEED IN ANY OFFENSIVE MOVEMENT WHICH MAY BE COMMENCED.

It was pointed out that the terrain in the vicinity of St. Mihiel is not only very mountainous with valleys that carry little rivers and brooks, but that the Germans have the great fortress base of Metz only a short distance away from which they can draw supplies. The fact that the initial blows are reported to have been successful greatly pleases the officials at the war department who have been waiting anxiously for word that at least the first field army was in action.

WOMEN PERFECT PLANS FOR LIBERTY LOAN DRIVE

Mrs. Sam Phillips, of Memphis, Head of Organization and Delivers Address.

Nashville, Sept. 12.—The women of Middle Tennessee, in charge of the women's division for the fourth liberty loan drive, met today in a perfect plan for the big loan drive. Mrs. Sam Phillips of Memphis, head of the woman's loan work in Tennessee, was present and delivered an address. String talks were also made by Gypsy Smith, noted evangelist, Capt. W. Gordon Sprigg of the British Y. M. C. A., and others. The women of Tennessee expect to raise a large portion of the state's quota in the fourth loan.

SENATE WAITING FOR REVENUE BILL

Supporters of Woman Suffrage Refuse to Allow Vote in Senate
Washington, Sept. 12.—With its calendar cleaned of all pressing legislation, the senate today is marked time waiting for the new war revenue bill to come from the house.